

—Brierley Hill—
Urban District Council.

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

—OF THE—

Medical Officer of Health

—AND THE—

—Sanitary Inspector—

FOR THE YEAR 1909.

U. Beddall, Printer, Brierley Hill.

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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

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VICE-CHAIRMAN - - - Councillor J. BENTON.

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The whole of the members of the Council.

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Medical Officer of Health :

H. D'ARCY ELLIS, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S.

Clerk :

WILLIAM WALDRON, Solicitor.

Surveyor :

J. L. HARPUR.

Sanitary Inspector :

JOHN YORKE.

Analyst :

E. W. T. JONES, F.I.C.



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Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health.



**To the Chairman and Members
of the Brierley Hill Urban District Council.**

GENTLEMEN,

The Vital Statistics for the year 1909 are again satisfactory. The death rate is not quite so low, but there has been a steady decline during the last three years ; the year 1908 having the lowest death-rate in the history of the district.

The birth-rate is the lowest on record, and that is not so satisfactory, but there has been a steady downward tendency in the birth-rate all over the country since the year 1895.

The infantile mortality is again a low one, considerably lower than the previous decennial period, as will be seen on referring to Table I, appended to this report.

It is to be hoped this position with regard to this particular death-rate will be maintained.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The vital statistics for the past year are again based upon an estimated population of 13,000, as I do not think there has been any increase of the population during the past two years. It is possible that the population has been a little over-estimated, but the year 1911 being census year, will clear up any errors of this kind, and that is therefore an additional reason why I think it expedient to adopt the same estimate again.

Birth-rate. Three hundred and fifty-five persons were born in the district during the year, of whom 186 were males and 169 females.

The birth-rate for the year 1909 is therefore 27·30 per 1000 of the population, as against a birth-rate of 29·46 for the year 1908.

The mean birth-rate for the past ten years is 32·19.

Death-rate. One hundred and eighty-three deaths occurred in the district during the year, of whom 97 were males and 86 females, making a death-rate of 14·07 per 1000 of the population, as against a death-rate of 11·92 for the year 1908 of persons who died within the district; but to this we have to add 16 persons belonging to the district who died in public institutions outside.

The corrected number of deaths is 199, and the corrected death-rate, 15·30 per thousand of the population. The corrected death-rate for the year 1908, being 13·15.

The mean death-rate for the past ten years is 16·93.

Zymotic Death-rate. Twenty-eight deaths occurred from amongst the seven principal Zymotic diseases. Measles, 17; diphtheria, 7; enteric fever, 2; diarrhoea, 2. The death-rate is 2·1 per 1000 of the population, as against a Zymotic death-rate of 2·3 for the year 1908.

The mean average of the past ten years is 1·10.

This is higher than that of the County generally, or of the Urban and Rural districts within the County. This year it is mainly due to an epidemic of measles. The high rate of 1908 being mainly due to diphtheria. The rates for the other Zymotic diseases will be found set forth on Table VI appended.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Forty-three deaths occurred amongst children under 1 year of age, making an infantile mortality of 121 per 1000 births.

The infantile mortality for the year 1908 was 117.

The mean average of the past ten years is 154.

Such a low infantile mortality for two successive years is encouraging. How far we are justified in attributing this improvement to improved sanitary conditions, or to more intelligent care on the part of the mothers with regard to clothing, feeding and cleanliness, I do not know, but I think there is no doubt the present generation of mothers do take more interest and are more alive to their responsibility. You will note there are only two deaths from infantile diarrhoea. This is most probably due to the fact that we had a relatively low summer and autumn temperature. Infantile diarrhoea has, however, generally been credited to a large extent as due to ignorance and improper feeding, and it is therefore satisfactory to note that only two deaths have occurred.

Synopsis of birth and death-rates in Brierley Hill, County of Stafford, England and Wales.

1909.	Annual Rates per 1000 living.			Infantile Mortality.
	Birth-rate.	General Death-Rate.	Deaths from seven principle Zymotic Diseases.	
Brierley Hill ...	27·30	15·30	2·10	121
England and Wales ...	25·6	14·5	1·12	109
76 Great Towns ...	25·7	15·6	1·42	118
142 Smaller Towns ...	24·8	14·5	1·08	111
England and Wales—less 218 Towns ...	25·6	13·6	0·80	98
County of Stafford—				
1908 { Urban ..	31·4	15·0	1·49	139
Rural ...	26·7	13·1	0·71	98
Brierley Hill ...	29·4	13·1	2·34	117

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED.

Diphtheria.

27 cases. 7 deaths.
Number of houses affected, 22.

During the past five years there has been a considerable increase in the number of cases of diphtheria over the previous years; in the year 1907, 29 cases were notified, and 8 deaths occurred. In the year 1908, 39 cases were notified, and 8 deaths again resulted. The 27 cases which occurred in 1909 were notified in every month throughout the year, excepting December, the last case being notified on November 4th. No other case occurred until February 20th of this year (1910), and that was an imported case. Up to the time of writing this report no other case has occurred, so that we may reasonably hope we are getting free from the disease.

As I endeavoured to point out fully in my report for the year 1908, this disease is mainly kept alive and maintained by indirect contact, persons who although not themselves ill, have come in contact with the disease and harbour the bacilli in their respiratory passages and infect drinking vessels and other things. It is extremely difficult to locate these sources of infection and isolate them after discovery.

In every case the usual means were adopted to control the spread of the disease, and to prevent a fatal issue, such as free bacteriological examination to confirm the diagnosis, free supply of antitoxin serum; as far as possible, isolation of the affected persons and thorough disinfection and fumigation of infected houses and schools.

A supply of antitoxin serum is always kept in stock at the office, Moor Street, and is available at all times for the free use of medical practitioners in the district, with a properly sterilized syringe. Success depends upon the prompt injection of this serum. It has been extensively used during the past year, and I have reason to believe, with good results. The public should know by now, of the advantage which is freely offered to them, and be prepared to demand its application. At one time there was some prejudice against the use of this remedy, but I never hear of any objection being raised to it now.

With the treatment of diphtheria by the early application of antitoxin, if the public will seek medical advice early, in all cases of sore throat, and especially in cases with difficulty of breathing, or signs of croup, the mortality ought to be reduced to almost vanishing point. It is certain that the early application of this

treatment prevents malignant symptoms developing, and as a result one sees and hears less of those very malignant cases, which terminated rapidly and gave rise to the dread, which at one time was felt when this disease was mentioned.

Enteric Fever.

5 cases.	2 deaths.
1808—7 cases.	1 death.

Of the two cases that died, one was that of a young man who lived at a house where no fault could be found with the sanitary condition. He had been in the habit of eating shell-fish, purchased in the market. The other was that of a man who had been working in the night-soil department. In this case the house and premises were found to be in a deplorable insanitary condition.

Of the cases that recovered, one was at a cottage which I had reported as unfit for human habitation, and on the premises there was an old brick sewer, exposed, and with a large hole in it, which was said to be very offensive at times. One was a very mild case at a fairly good house where no sanitary defect was detected. The other was that of a boy who had been visiting at Southsea, and returned home ill. He was known to have eaten a considerable quantity of uncooked cockles about a fortnight before his illness. The Medical Officer of Health at Southsea was notified.

Scarlet Fever.

18 cases.	No deaths.
1908—16 cases.	No deaths.

They were all cases of a very mild type. Some did not seek assistance until the "peeling stage," owing to the fact that the children did not appear to be ill. The majority of parents adopt no precaution, and many of the mild cases remain unnotified; the illness being regarded as of a trivial nature. It is difficult to get anything like satisfactory isolation at home, amongst the working classes, and especially is this so when the disease is of so mild a type. Nothing approaching a serious out-break occurred. The usual precautions as regards disinfection and fumigation were carried out in each case.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Cases notified, 4. Deaths registered, 7.
Death rate, 0·53.

Reference to Table VI (appended), will show that the death-rate is a little below the year 1908, and the average of the past ten years.

On January the 1st, 1909, the Public Health Tuberculosis Regulations came into effect, and it became the duty of the Poor Law Medical Officers to notify all parish cases to the Medical Officer of Health. Four cases were thus notified during the year 1909. Each case was visited by the Sanitary Inspector and myself. Spitting cups and disinfectants were supplied free by the Council, and the patients were instructed how to use them; the friends or relations were advised as to the risk of infection, and the necessity for good feeding and fresh air. The Poor Law Guardians sent one of the cases to the Sandgate Sanatorium, Kent. He returned in a very much improved condition and commenced to work. Another was sent as a preliminary step to the Union Infirmary, for nursing and feeding, but having a bad fistula in ano, which required treatment in the sick ward, he refused to stay.

My inspection of these four cases confirmed the opinion I had already expressed, that the means we adopt to combat the disease could only be palliative. Consider for a moment the condition under which this class of people exist. Extreme poverty; cheap, over-crowded, insanitary houses (houses, the proper remedy for which would be demolition); and the ever constant struggle to obtain the means of subsistence. These four cases were men over 40 years of age, the bread-winners of the household, to whom it seemed a mockery to mention the necessity of a good and plentiful supply of nourishing food; and with their insanitary, sunless and stuffy environment, almost equally absurd to emphasise the necessity of plenty of sunlight and fresh air. There is little wonder they are helpless victims before such an enemy as pulmonary tuberculosis.

The main difficulty in effectually dealing with the disease is a financial one. If the whole of the District Councils comprised in the parish of Kingswinford would combine, there are sites within its own area where buildings might be erected, and the cases successfully treated; not the palatial buildings which are called sanatoria, but the more economical and quite as effectual châlet. They can be treated and educated in suitable situations at home, quite as well as in more remote parts of the country. If we had such a system, I believe it could be managed at a reasonable cost, and being nearer the homes of the patients, would be more appreciated. The pity of it all is, that the poor patient who is sent

away to a sanitorium, has to return to his former environment, where it is impossible for him to carry on the instruction he has received. The remedy for this would be the erection of sanitary dwellings, to be let to the consumptive family, at a low rental, and to get them to live there. Boarding-out houses are provided for the cast off and illegitimate children at the workhouse, more from sentimental motives than anything else. It seems to me, the lot of the consumptive, who has to live in what he knows to be a veritable death-trap, is a more pitiable case.

Referring again for a moment to the notified parish cases. We have at the Union House, separate wards set apart for the treatment of consumption. The cases notified were all chronic cases, and could be properly treated there, where, with good nursing, liberal feeding and properly regulated exercises, they might be rendered fit for some light occupation. It is the cases that are notified in the early stage of the disease, that should be sent to a sanatorium. These are the cases that should not return to their former environment, if it can be prevented.

Another important point is that the sleeping room should be absolutely set apart for the patient. How can this possibly be accomplished in the homes of the poorer labouring classes? The houses occupied by this class have sometimes only one, and never more than two sleeping rooms.

When a death occurs we disinfect and fumigate the room occupied by the patient.

Measles.

17 deaths, all of them in children under 5 years of age.

This not being a notifiable disease, one cannot say how many cases there were in the district. The chief medium of its spread is through the attendance of children under five years of age at school. In former epidemics, the information of an outbreak came to me through the teachers, who became anxious on account of the diminished attendance. Last September, the Medical Officers of the Local Government Board and the Board of Education issued a memorandum, giving directions as to the mode of procedure in the event of measles occurring amongst the school children. The epidemic occurred in June, July and August, and had practically ceased by the middle of September, so that the memorandum did not affect the procedure. After setting forth the mode of infection and the necessity for more stringent precautions as to attendance at the infant schools, it lays down certain instructions as to prevention,

which come more immediately within the province of the Sanitary Authority, as follows :—

1. For infant schools.

- (a) When a few cases only are present :—Exclude the patients and infants living with them.
- (b) When more cases :—Close the affected class or school from the 9th to the 14th day.
- (c) When it is clear that the school attendance is the chief medium of spread, close the school.

2. For boys' and girls' schools.

- (d) Exclude all who are attacked, but only those from infected houses who have not had measles.

They further state that circumstances may arise which make it necessary to close a class or school when the attendance has fallen to a certain minimum, but that this procedure should emanate from the school authority, on the advice of the school Medical Officer, and not from the Sanitary Authority on the advice of the Medical Officer of Health.

Before this memorandum was issued, the School Attendance Officer drew my attention to instructions he had received from the Chief School Medical Officer for the Local Education Authority, to the effect that it was not necessary that children who had had, or were not suffering from measles, excepting children under seven years of age, should be excluded from attendance, when there was a case of measles in the home, on the ground that measles is very rarely conveyed by means of contact or clothing. I think this instruction made it unnecessary for the teachers to apply to me to close the schools.

The usual source of information being thus cut off, I had no knowledge of the extent of the epidemic until the death returns began to come in. It is these epidemics of measles which occur every two years, when the susceptible children come into the schools, i.e., children under five years of age, that keeps up the zymotic death-rate over the decennial period, and it is a fact that we have had the largest number of deaths from measles during 1909 than has occurred during the past ten years. This means either that the case mortality has been higher than usual, or the epidemic has been much more extensive.

From the memorandum now issued, it would appear that the intimation will in future go to the School Medical Officer. I think

that it should also be sent to the Medical Officer of Health, or failing that, measles should be made a notifiable disease.

Amongst the 17 deaths, there were 13 due to pneumonia, one of the sequelæ of this disease, which, amongst young children may always be expected; but which, with ordinary care ought to be avoided. I tried to ascertain the cause of these fatal cases. Bad hygienic conditions had very little to do with it. In most cases it was the nursing that was at fault, the children had been allowed to run about as soon as they were able, which was generally at the end of the first week, when their resistive power was lowered, and they required careful nursing; and although the mothers know this perfectly well, they always say they cannot keep the child in. The proper remedy to meet this would be to keep the child in bed for at least ten days, and if it were carried out in every case, I believe the mortality would be less.

Education Act, 1907.

This Act is administered by the Education Authority. No notice has been received of any case requiring investigation. Disinfection is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector when necessary.

Midwife's Act.

There are no properly trained or qualified midwives in the district. Three cases of puerperal fever were notified, one being attended by a midwife. The bedrooms were fumigated and disinfected after recovery.

Housing of the Working Classes Act.

Part I. No action necessary.

Part II. 79 houses have been reported as unfit for human habitation. 35 were condemned and 49 certified as being in a neglected and dirty condition. Under Dwelling-houses, the Sanitary Inspector in his report, shows how these cases have been dealt with.

Part III. There are no registered lodging houses in the district.

Sewerage and Drainage.

The contract for carrying out the Sewerage Scheme was signed in the early part of the year, and a Clerk of the Works appointed, but owing to the unfortunate death of the contractor, delay arose. A new contract has now been signed by another contractor, and there is every reason to believe the work will now be proceeded with, with as little delay as possible.

Factory and Workshops Act.

No case of lead poisoning has been reported. There is one factory where common tinning is done. I have examined the workers on two occasions since the new order came in force, and have found the workers unaffected. Better lavatory arrangements have been provided, and means adopted to prevent poisoning from the fumes. At one of the factories where there were closets with the old cesspit plan in use, has been altered by the erection of entirely new closets with pans. The old closets were always a nuisance to the locality in which they were situated, when they had to be emptied. That danger is now entirely removed, and it is much safer and better for the employees at the works. In another case, where a large number are employed, I found there was no water supply on the premises; such water as could be obtained being taken from a well a hundred yards away. On analysis, this water proved to be impure. There was no closet convenience of any kind. Both these matters have now been satisfactorily settled, new closets erected, and the Company's water laid on.

As regards the other department, on which I am required to report, such as :—Excrement Disposal, Unsound Food, Section 117, Public Health Act, 1875, and Nuisances. As they are all fully dealt with in the Sanitary Inspector's Report, I do not think any comment is necessary.

Adoptive Acts.

The Notification of Birth's Act, and the Public Health Act Amendment Act, 1907, have not been adopted, but I hope the newly elected Council will appoint a small Committee to consider the question, and also to consider the question of a Revision of the Bye-laws. With regard to the Notification of Birth's Act, there is an effort now being made to provide a nurse by voluntary subscription. If this is successful, as I believe it will be, the services of this nurse might be utilised for the purposes of this Act. It could

not be carried out without the aid of a Nurse or Health Missioner.

With regard to the Public Health Act Amendment Act, 1907, in view of the completion of the sewerage scheme, and the facilities which this Act affords, for expediting house connections, and the substitution of w.c.'s for the present system, I think we should put ourselves in a position to make the best use of its powers.

The question of a revision of the Bye-laws has been before the Council for several years. It is important that this question should also be settled so as to be prepared with such alterations as the sewerage scheme may entail.

H. D'ARCY ELLIS.

April 4th, 1910.

Table I. Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1909 and previous Years.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Total Deaths registered in the District.		Deaths registered in the District.		Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
		Under 1 year of Age.		At all Ages.		Deaths registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.		Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions.	
		Number	Rate.*	Number	Rate.*	Number	Rate*	Number	Rate*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1899	... 12,092	442	36·55	69	156	221	18·27	15	19·51
1900	... 12,122	440	36·29	70	150	253	20·87	12	21·86
1901	... 12,148	417	34·32	59	141	204	16·79	12	17·78
1902	... 12,228	412	33·09	57	138	187	15·29	12	16·27
1903	... 12,388	400	32·28	54	135	174	14·00	9	14·77
1904	... 12,640	383	30·30	71	186	193	15·26	24	17·16
1905	... 12,822	408	31·82	65	182	182	14·11	14	15·28
1906	... 12,946	380	29·26	71	159	215	16·60	18	17·78
1907	... 13,000	372	28·61	65	174	191	14·79	13	15·78
1908	... 13,000	383	29·46	45	117	155	11·92	16	13·15
Averages for years 1899-1908									
	12,538	403	32·19	62	154	197	15·79	14	16·93
	13,000	355	27·30	43	121	183	14·07	16	212
1909	...							199	15·30

* Rates in columns 4 and 8 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.
Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) 1027.

Total Population at all Ages ... 12,148
Number of inhabited houses ... 2,394
Average number of Persons per house ... 5·07
At Census ... 12,148
of 1901.

Table III. Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year, 1909.

Notifiable Disease.	At all Ages.	Cases notified in whole District.					Total Cases removed to Hospital.
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65 upwards	
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)	...	27	2	7	16	2	
Erysipelas	...	14			4	8	2
Scarlet fever	...	18		6	9	3	
Enteric fever	...		5		1	3	1
Puerperal fever	...		3			1	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	4				4	
Totals	...	71	2	13	26	13	2
							2

Isolation Hospital—Merry Hill, Quarry Bank.
Total available beds, 16. Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated, 1.

Table IV.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during Year 1909.

Causes of Death. 1	Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents," whether occurring in or beyond the District.						
	All ages 2	Under 1 year 3	1 and under 5 4	5 and under 15 5	15 and under 25 6	25 and under 65 7	65 and upwards 8
Measles	17	4	13				
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous croup) ...	7		3	3		1	
Enteric fever	2				2	1	
Epidemic influenza ...	1					1	
Diarrhœa	2	2	2				
Gastritis	5	2	2	1			
Erysipelas	2	1				1	
Phthisis, (Pulmonary Tuber- culosis)	7				2	5	
Other tuberculous diseases... ...	6	2	2	1			1
Cancer, malignant disease... ...	9					6	2
Bronchitis	26	8	3			4	11
Pneumonia	13	4	4			4	1
Alcoholism cirrhosis of liver	3					3	
Venereal diseases	2		1			1	
Premature birth	6	6					
Diseases and accidents of parturition	3	1				2	
Heart diseases	9					3	6
Accidents	6	1				4	1
All other causes	73	12	6	4	3	16	32
All causes ...	199	43	34	9	8	51	54

Table V.

Infantile Mortality during the Year 1909.
Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		ALL CAUSES.		Certified		Uncertified		Under 1 Week		Total under 1 Month		1-2 Months		2-3 Months		3-4 Months		4-5 Months		5-6 Months		6-7 Months		7-8 Months		8-9 Months		9-10 Months		10-11 Months		11-12 Months		Total Deaths under 1 Year.	
i.	Common Infectious Diseases.	7	5	2	...	14	4	3	6	2	3	2	3	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	43					
ii.	Diarrhoeal Diseases.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
iii.	Wasting Diseases.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
iv.	Tuberculous Diseases.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
v.	Other Causes.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		7	5	2	...	...	...	14	4	3	6	2	3	2	3	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	43			

District of Brierley Hill. Population, estimated to middle of 1909, 13,000. Births in the year—legitimate, 342; illegitimate, 13. Deaths in the year of legitimate infants, 40; illegitimate infants, 3. Deaths from all Causes at all Ages 199.

Table VI.

Estimated Population, 13,000. No. of Acres, 1027

Population, Birth-rate, and Death-rate at all ages, and the Death-rate from Zymotic Diseases, Phthisis, and other Diseases of the Respiratory Organs.

Date.	Census, 1901.	Estimated Population to middle of 1909.	No. of Persons per acre.	Birth-rate per 1,000 of Population.	General Mortality per 1000 of the population.	General Zymotic Mortality per 1000 of the population.	Mortality in Children under 1 year of age per 1000 births.	Mortality in Children under 1 year of age per 1000 of age per 1000 births.	Enteric Fever	Diarrhoea.	Phthisis.	Diseases of Respiratory Organs.	Individual Mortality per 1000 of population.			
														North Ward.	East Ward.	West Ward.
1909	12,148	13,000	12.6	27.30	15.30	1.2	121	1.0	1.0	0.5	3.0	3.3	13.4	14.2	14.1	14.6
Average of past ten years	..	32.19	6.91	16.93	1.1	1.1	154	2.0	0.8	0.8	3.8	3.8	...	...	...	...

Mortality in separate Wards (exclusive of 16 deaths which occurred outside the district)

Table VII.
Cases of Infectious Disease notified in the District during the year 1909.

Notifiable Diseases.	At all Ages.	Houses Infected.	North	West.	Number of Cases in each Ward.		Average number of cases for previous 10 years.
					East.	West.	
Small-pox	6	10	11	1	1
Cholera	22	14	3	0	0
Diphtheria	27	14	6	10	10
Erysipelas	14	14	4	9	9
Scarlet Fever	18	14	6	8	24
Enteric Fever	5	5	2	2	10
Puerperal Fever	3	3	2	1	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	4	4	—	1	2	—
TOTALS	...	71	62	22	19	29	56

Table VIII.

Factories, Workshops, Workplaces and Homework.

1. INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of	
	Inspections.	Written Notices.
Factories
Workshops
Workplaces
TOTAL

2. DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.		
	Found.	Remedied	Referred to H M. Inspector.
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>			
Want of cleanliness	...	14	14
Want of ventilation	...	2	2
Over-crowding	...	1	1
Other nuisances	...	5	5
<i>Sanitary accommodation—</i>			
Insufficient	...	2	2
Unsuitable or defective	...	4	4
TOTAL	...	28	28
			2

Table VIII.—Continued.**3.—HOMEWORK.**

Nature of Work.	Outworkers' Lists, Section 107.							Inspection of Outworkers' Premises.	Outwork in Unwholesome Premises, Section 108.		
	Lists.	Lists received from employers		Addresses of Out-workers.		Notices served on Occupiers as to keeping or sending lists.					
		Twice in the year	Out-workers.	Workmen.	Received from other Councils.						
Wearing Apparel—											
(1) making, &c.	... 10		25	4	12	6	45				
(2) cleaning and washing	2		8		1		5				
Furniture and upholstery	2				2						
Cables and chains	... 2		41		41	1	.				
TOTALS	... 16		74	4	56	7	50				

Table VIII.—Continued.

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.			5.—OTHER MATTERS.		
		Number.	Class.		Number.
Carpenter	...	5	Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :		
Plumber	...	6		2	
Dressmaking	...	24	Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory Workshop Act :		
Tailoring	...	14			
Wheelwright	...	2			
Blacksmith	...	4			
Painter	...	5	Notified by H.M. Inspector	3	
Milliner	...	8	Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector	3	
Baker	...	16			
Bootmakers	...	5			
Cabinet Maker	...	4			
Saddler	...	2			
Boat Building	...	5			
Stone Mason	...	2			
Jeweller	...	1	Underground Bakehouses :		
Photography	...	1			
Mineral Water Manufactory	...	1	In use at the end of the year		
Chainmaking	...	1			5
Upholstering	...	1			
Total number of workshops on Register	...	107			

April 4th, 1910.

(Signed),

H. D'ARCY ELLIS,

Medical Officer of Health.

Table IX.
STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

Summary of Sanitary Work

done in the Nuisance Inspector's Department during the year 1909,
in the Urban District of Brierley Hill.

		Number of	Inspections & Observations made.	Defects found.	Abatement Notices.	Nuisances abated after notice by	Inspector.	Authority.
Dwelling- houses and Schools.	Foul Conditions	... 136	49	42	23	39	8	
	Structural Defects	... 279	129	94	24	86	18	
	Overcrowding	... 32	15	15	4	11	4	
	Unfit for Habitation	... 146	35	35	18	15	16	
	Dairies and Milkshops	... 154	5	5		5		
	Cowsheds	... 18	96	9	5	13	5	
	Bakehouses	... 96	15	9	15			
	Slaughter-houses	... 246	15	15		15		
	Canal Boats	... 89	45	45		43		
	Ashpits and Privies	... 322	64	64	30	29	27	
House drainage.	Deposits of Refuse and Manure	... 60	32		32		32	
	Water Closets	... 69	39	35	16	19	14	
	Defective Traps	... 672	169	82	54	59	46	
	No Disconnection	... 169						
	Other Faults	... 32						
	Water Supply	... 11	5	5		5		
	Pigsties	... 32	12	12	3	9	3	
	Animals improperly kept	... 49	16	16	8	7	8	
	Smoke Nuisances	... 24	1		1		1	
	Other Nuisances	... 118	64	58	12	47	10	
		TOTALS ...	2515	722	553	230	411	192
Unwhole- some food	Number of Seizures and Surrenders	...				...	38	
	Condemned by Magistrate	...				...	6	
	Samples of Water taken for Analysis	...				...	2	
	" " condemned as unfit for use	...				...	2	
Precautions against Infectious Disease.								
Lots of Infected Bedding disinfected or destroyed ... Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease ... Schools ditto ditto								15 59 18

(Signed), JOHN YORKE, Inspector of Nuisances.

March 14th, 1910.

Sanitary Inspector's Report

For the Year 1909.



**To the Chairman and Members
of the Brierley Hill Urban District Council.**

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Eighth Annual Report as Sanitary Inspector to the Brierley Hill Urban District.

Special Complaints.

During the year 34 special complaints were received and investigated, and where found necessary, proper measures taken to remedy the nuisances complained of.

General Inspection.

During the course of general inspection in the district, 654 nuisances and breaches of your Bye-laws were met with, and the person or persons in default notified. Where possible, a personal interview was obtained, either at the premises or at the office, invariably with good results. In this manner, and by the use of a preliminary notice, more than half the nuisances above-mentioned were dealt with without friction and the necessity of reporting to your Committee. These premises were revisited whilst the work required was in progress, and after completion.

Following the practice of former years, in a large number of instances detailed specifications of the work necessary to be carried out, and when required, sketches were provided, thus insuring the

work being executed properly, and preventing misunderstanding. This method is especially useful where new drainage is required, for the old idea still prevails that anyone can lay a drain, and no skill or care is required, so long as there are pipes, and the liquid matter will run away, that is thought to be sufficient for all purposes.

I am pleased to say progress has been made in this direction, and better and more careful work is observed. The fact that each drain laid under my supervision is carefully tested, either by water or smoke, has, no doubt, a restraining influence upon the careless workman; much harm is however done by irresponsible persons who are allowed to break up and alter existing drainage without the knowledge of your officials, and it is no uncommon thing to meet with dangerous conditions thus effected. Powers are needed to prevent this interference with drains and sanitary fittings without subsequent inspection.

In the monthly reports to your Sanitary Committee attention was drawn to 230 sanitary defects, and in connection therewith you have issued statutory notices upon the owners or occupiers, requiring the abatement or removal of the nuisances.

The results are tabulated and shewn below.

Act and section under which notice was served.	No. of Notices.	Complied with.	Not complied with.	Work in progress.	Prosecution
Public Health Act, 1875, Sec. 94	126	93	21	12	10
" " " " "	47	11	11		
" " " " "	49	32	32		
" " " " "	70	5	5		
" " " " "	120	49	44	5	
Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, Sec. 32	35	31	1	1	
Factory and Workshops' Act, 1902	... 28	28			
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk-shops' Orders	... 23	23			
Canal Boats' Acts	... 45	43	2		
Bye-laws	... 9	9	9		
TOTALS	363	329	38	13	10

Prosecutions.

It has been necessary to institute legal proceedings against the owners of 10 properties, who had refused to comply with your Statutory notice: 19 other authorities were granted, but it was not necessary to seek the intervention of the Court in these cases, the work necessary to abate the nuisances being put in hand before a summons was issued.

Every effort is made to induce persons in default to carry out the work required before resorting to extreme measures. and it is gratifying to note the necessity for this course has been less frequent this year.

The following tables give details of legal proceedings.

The following table gives the details of all Legal Proceedings.

Premises.	Nature of offence.	Act under which proceedings were instituted.	Results.
24, Fenton Street ... } 25, Fenton Street ... } 26, Fenton Street ... } 27, Fenton Street ... }	Defective drainage, insanitary ashpits and privies ...	Public Health Act, 1875 " " , , , " , , , , " , , , ,	Magistrates' order made to execute work in accordance with specification, and to pay costs.
53, Parkes Street ... } 54, Parkes Street ... } 55, Parkes Street ... }	Ditto ditto.	Public Health Act, 1875 " " , , " , , , ,	Ditto. ditto.
No. 2, Court 6, Parkes Street, ... No. 3, Court 6, Parkes Street ...	Ditto. ditto.	Public Health Act, 1875 " , , , ,	Ditto. ditto.
53, Cottage Street ...	Premises in a foul and insanitary condition.	Public Health Act, 1875	Ditto. ditto.

Dwelling-houses.

Thirty-five dwelling-houses were condemned as unfit for human habitation during the year, and 49 certified by your Medical Officer to be in a foul and dirty condition, and were dealt with under Section 120, Public Health Act, 1875; five houses were closed voluntarily; 31 were repaired, cleansed, and rendered fit for habitation; and 44 cleansed and limewashed.

Owing to mining subsidences some 50 houses were rendered unfit for human habitation, and about 25 demolished or are in such a condition as to be beyond repair. Most of these will, no doubt, be again rebuilt or repaired during the ensuing year.

In connection with the inspection of insanitary houses, your Health Committee has been of much assistance, and following the usual practice, they have, upon your recommendation, visited and reported upon 15 properties, before application for a closing order was made.

The scope of this Committee's usefulness has been further extended by the provisions of the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909, which lays upon you the responsibility of carrying into effect the powers and duties formally relegated to the Magisterial bench, namely—the power to close any house which, in your opinion is unfit for human habitation, until such premises are rendered fit.

House Drainage.

Anticipating the advent of new sewerage, a considerable amount of my time and attention has been devoted to house drainage, and some 220 properties were provided with new drainage. Each has been so constructed as to be easily connected to the new sewers. This will considerably lighten your task when the time arrives when all drainage must be overhauled before connecting to the new system. My experience goes to shew that a large proportion of existing drainage will need relaying and remodelling. The work in this direction has been somewhat restricted, as in many instances new drainage could not be effected, owing to the existing sewer being unsuitable or inaccessible.

Bakehouses.

There are now 18 bakehouses upon the register, five of which are described as underground, and are licensed by you as such. Two were closed as unfit, and three new ones registered.

I have made 76 inspections, in the course of which nine infringements were noted, these were remedied after notice.

Generally speaking, the bakehouses have been found in good condition.

Slaughterhouses.

You have renewed the licenses of 12 slaughterhouses during the year; one is not now used and the license has lapsed. 246 inspections were made, and 15 infringements dealt with and remedied after formal notice. New drainage has been provided to four, and each are now provided with a galvanized garbage bin, which is cleansed and removed at frequent intervals.

In addition to the ordinary inspection of food stuffs, a special examination was made of 121 carcases: of these, 55, together with the offals, were condemned as unfit for food. 68 heads, together with 73 lots of internal organs or offals were also condemned and disposed of. All these, with the exception of four, were swine carcases, and nearly all were tuberculous.

In each case a certificate of condemnation was issued by me, and a surrender note signed by the owners deposited at my office. No legal proceedings have been necessary this year.

Public Market.

A visit of inspection is made to the public market upon most market days, which occur every Tuesday and Saturday. Some improvement is noted in the quality of food stuffs brought and exposed for sale.

The following articles were condemned as unfit for food and duly certified as such by a magistrate.

All were surrendered, and it was therefore not necessary to take further action.

- 3 boxes of fish.
- 1 barrel of apples
- 1 box bloater paste
- 2 parcels plums
- 1 parcel of rabbits (frozen)
- 1 parcel of fowl (frozen)

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops.

There are now 17 cowsheds registered, and six registered purveyors of milk under inspection within the district.

One new cowshed has been erected to replace an old wooden structure, and the floors of two others have been relaid.

The cowsheds have been kept in better condition this year, but a large amount of patience and watchfulness is still required to induce some of the cowkeepers to observe that standard of cleanliness required to ensure a pure milk supply.

One Certificate of Registration was withdrawn during the year, and upon your instructions another cowkeeper has been warned that a similar fate will befall him if the necessary precautions are not observed.

Two new purveyor's licenses were issued during the year, and one has been cancelled. Two applications for registration were refused, the premises proposed to be used as dairies were found, upon inspection, to be unsuitable for that purpose.

A careful watch has been kept on all milch cows for any sign of tuberculosis of the udder, but nothing has yet been noted to arouse suspicion, or to warrant further advice. 23 infringements have been notified and remedied.

Location of Cowsheds.

Level Street	22, Buckpool
Terrace Street (3)	25, Pearson Street
33, Potter Street	44, Chapel Street
114, Hart's Hill	Hawbush, Brettell Lane
Court 3, Hart's Hill	2, Turk Street (2)
12, Bull Street	26, Amblecote Road
89, Moor Street	36, Moor Street

Purveyor's of Milk.

- Geo. Morton, 50, Fenton Street
- N. A. Compson, 95, Hart's Hill
- Hickman & Co., 13, Dudley Street
- J. Fasey, 33, New Street
- A. Critchley, Albion Street
- P. Rosa, High Street.

Factories and Workshops.

There are 107 workshops upon the register, in which the following classes of work are carried on:—

Carpentry	... 5	Plumber	... 6
Dressmaking	... 24	Tailoring	... 14
Wheelwright	... 2	Blacksmith	... 4
Painting	... 5	Millinery	... 8
Bakers	... 16	Boat Building	... 5
Boot makers	... 5	Cabinet making	4
Sadlery	... 2	Stonemason	... 2
Jeweller	... 1	Photography	... 1
Mineral Water		Chainmaking	... 1
Manufactory	... 1	Upholstering	... 1

182 inspections were made of workshops and workplaces, and the following defects notified and remedied:—

Want of cleanliness, 14; want of ventilation, 2; overcrowding, 1; other defects, 5; defective sanitary accommodation, 6.

Two notices have been received from H.M. Inspector of Factories. The matters contained therein were attended to, and the Inspector duly notified thereof.

Outworkers.

Sixteen lists of outworkers were received during the year, containing 74 names; four lists were received from neighbouring authorities; and 56 names and addresses of outworkers forwarded by me to the local authorities in whose districts they resided.

Seven infringements are recorded and were dealt with.

Infectious Diseases.

Seventy cases of infectious disease have been notified during the year. Each was visited from time to time, the necessary inquiries made, and any insanitary condition existing was subsequently dealt with. 59 houses were thoroughly sprayed and fumigated, and 15 lots of bedding disinfected by the steam disinfecter. All Elementary schools were thoroughly sprayed twice and Sunday schools once during the year.

Canal Boats.

Eighty-nine boats were inspected during the year.

A larger proportion of boats found in a leaky and dirty condition is recorded, most of which is due to neglect upon the part of the captain ; indeed, I have seen boats newly painted and docked, present a deplorable appearance at the end of six months.

Less overcrowding has been observed during the year, though it exists yet to a very considerable extent, as is shewn by caution notes which are brought from time to time from other districts by the occupants of boats, who seem to be past masters in the best methods of evading the regulations.

The fore cabin in narrow boats are rarely used as sleeping births, and one cannot wonder at the reluctance shewn in occupying them, as in most cases they are little better than dog kennels.

Generally speaking, the boats and their occupants have been found clean and apparently healthy.

45 infringements of the regulations have been dealt with and remedied.

The number of boats upon your register is now 79.

Three boats were registered during the year.

H.M. Inspector made his customary visit in April, when he expressed himself satisfied with the work done.

Removal of House Refuse.

This work has been carried out regularly and well by the contractors, and complaints have been reduced to a minimum.

All instructions issued by me have received prompt attention.

Each ashpit and privy is thoroughly sprayed with disinfectant fluid after cleansing. The whole of the work is executed conscientiously and perhaps as well as is possible under the existing contract system. At no time has there been more than 12 requests not attended to.

2,601 ashpits, and 3,296 privies, belonging to 5,059 houses have been cleansed during the year. All schools' and works' pans have received weekly attention, as well as all dry ash-bins.

A detailed summary of work done in my department is attached.
See Table IX.

I am, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN YORKE,

(Member Royal Sanitary Institute),

Sanitary Inspector.